

Ex. #1158

Extract from interrogation of
General Hidiki TOJO
of 12 March 1946

/pp. 1, 4, 6-8, 9-10/

"Q You were chosen Premier, were you not, chiefly because it was felt that you could control the actions of the Army?

"A Yes, from the standpoint of military administration."

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/p. 4/

"Q Yesterday, you explained that the policy, after the 6 September 1941 Imperial Conference, was, on the one hand, to negotiate for peace, and on the other, to prepare for war. Did you continue that policy?

"A Yes. I undertook the work as Premier.

"Q What matters were discussed and what policies decided on at the Imperial Conference of 5 November 1941?

"A There wasn't any Imperial Conference on the 5th of November."

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/pp. 6-8/

"Q When and why was a meeting of ex-premiers held prior to the last Imperial Conference of 1 December 1941?

"A You mean the Senior Statesmen?

"Q Yes.

"A That was convened by the Emperor.

"Q When?

"A It was either on the 1st or the 31st.

"Q What was the purpose of calling that meeting?

"A The Emperor was very anxious about the question of war with America and he convened them in order to hear each man's opinion.

"Q Who presided at that meeting?

"A Let's see - those were WAKATSUKI, OKADA, Senjuro HAYASHI, YONAI, Nobuyuki ABE, KONOYE, HIRANUMA.

"Q You still have not answered who presided.

"A I think perhaps WAKATSUKI presided. I don't really know.

"Q Did you make any statements at that meeting?

"A Of course I was there too, as the Premier at that time. Yes, I did. The Emperor was there and heard each man's opinion in turn. I was there and from time to time spoke, giving the government's point of view.

"Q What did you state as the government's point of view?

"A I explained varicus things, but I don't remember the details now. I explained the inevitableness of war.

"Q Did the Emperor make any statement at all at that meeting?

"A No, he only listened. This was not a conference. It was only that the Emperor wished to hear the opinion of each man.

"Q Did you express your opinion before any of the others expressed theirs?

"A It was this way: The Army, Navy and Foreign Ministers, President of the Cabinet Planning Board, and I, as Premier, met with the Senior Statesmen in the morning and explained the situation to them. Then after a Court dinner with the Emperor, the former Premiers and I met with the Emperor who heard each man's opinion in turn. The other cabinet members were not present at that time, only I from the government. There was one other former Premier present - HIROTA.

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/pp. 9-10/

"Q Were there any differences between TOGO and the others relative to this? /Referring to the delivery of the final note to the United States./

"A No, there were not. They were the same - to deliver it before the attack.

"Q Was any decision arrived at in the Liaison Conference as to how long it was to be delivered before the attack?

"A I have explained this before. The decision as to the time was not made at the Liaison Conference. The Supreme Command and the Foreign Minister were to meet together and decide the time which would comply with the diplomatic and also the strategic requirements.

"Q Was this delegation of authority decided upon at this same final Liaison Conference?

"A Yes.

"Q Do you know that such meeting or meetings were held pursuant to this delegation of authority?

"A No, I don't know.

"Q Did you learn what decision had been arrived at in regard to timing by these men to whom the authority had been delegated?

"A I did not learn precisely the time set, but it was decided that the Chiefs of Staff and the Foreign Minister would settle that so as to comply with both the diplomatic and military requirements. It was settled at the Liaison Conference that the delivery of the final note would precede the attack. /Last sentence of this answer read back to the witness who agreed as to its correctness./

"Q You stated recently during an interrogation that Japan declared war on the United States and Great Britain. On what do you base that statement?

"A It is based on the Imperial Rescript.

"Q That Imperial Fescript was announced to the Japanese people and to the world some eleven or twelve hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Do you deny this?

"A It was afterwards, all right.

"Q How many hours afterwards do you admit that it was?

"A It was announced at about 11 or 11:30 on the morning of the 8th in Japan.

"Q And the Pearl Harbor attack was at 3:00 A.M., Japan time?

"A Yes, about that. I am not absolutely sure of the time, but I think it was about like that."

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東條英機ニ贈スル紙面ヨリノ摘要

一九四六年三月十二日

第一、四、六一八、九一十頁

【第一頁】

問、貴方ハ主トシテ貴方が監事ノ行動ヲ統領ハルコ
ト方日本ハトモハレタニメニ總理大臣ニ選任セ
答、ラレタノテハアリマセンカ、

答、サウテス軍團上。

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【第四頁】

問、昨日貴方ハ昭和十六年九月六日ノ御前會議以迄
ノ政局ハ一方ニ於テ平和ノ爲ノ交渉ヲナシ他方
ニ於テ戦争ノ準備ヲアサモテアツタト説明シ
答、マシタ。貴方ハソノ政局ヲ讀ケマシタカ、
答、サウテス。私ハ總理大臣トシテソノ仕事ヲ引受
キマシタ。

問、昭和十六年十一月五日ノ御前會議ニ於テ如何テ
ル事柄方前議セラレ如何ナル以東方決定セラレ
答、マシタカ、

答、十一月五日ニハ御前會議ハアリマセンデシタ。

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問、昭和十六年十二月一日ノ最終御前會議ノ以前、前總理大臣等ノ會合ガアツタノハ、何時又如何ナル理由カラテシタカ。

答、臣ノコトテスカ、

問、サウテス、

答、ソレハ天皇陛下ニ依リ召集セラレマシタ。

問、何時テスカ、

答、ソレハ一日カ三十一日カノ何レカテシタ。

問、ソノ會合方ナサレク目的ハ何テシタカ、

答、陛下ハ米國トノ戰爭ノ開戦ニ付シテ之様ヲ懼マセラレテ居ラレマシタ。ソコテ答人ノ意見ヲ聽セラルル爲重臣達ヲ集メラレタノテアリマシタ。

問、ソノ會合テハ誰ガ主導シマシタカ、

答、エト、居ツタノハ吉松、岡田、林銭十郎、米内、阿部信行、近衛、平沼、テシタ。

問、マダ誰ガ主導シタカ答ヘテイナイテスホ、

答、少分吉松ガ主導シタト想ヒマス。確實ナトコロハ分リマセン、

問、貴方ハソノ會議ニ於イテ何カ申述バマシタカ、

答、勿論私モソコニ當時ノ總理大臣トシテ居リマシタ。サウテス、私ハ發言シマシタ。陛下ガ臨御セラレ頃々ニ答人ノ意見ヲ聽取セラレマシタ。

25/10 A-3

私ハ出席シ時々發言シ政府ノ見解ヲ申述べマシタ。

問、貴方ハ政府ノ見解トシテ如何ナルコトヲ述べマシタカ、

答、私々ナコトヲ説明シマシタ、然シ今御カイコトハ竟エテ居リマセン。私ハ職事ノ過クベカラザルコトヲ説明シマシタ。

問、天皇ハソノ會合テ何カ少シテモ發言シマシタカ、

答、イヤ、陛下ハ嘗て居ラレタ文テシタ。之ハ御饗會テハアリマセンテシタ。唯陛下が各人ノ意見ヲ聽取シ度イト思召シタノテシタ。

問、貴方ハ他ノ者達ガ彼等ノ意見ヲ述べル前に自分ノ意見ヲ述べマシタカ、

答、ソレハコフ云フ具合テシタ、且、海軍及外務ノ各大臣、企畫院議長及總理大臣トシテノ私ガ午前中ニ重臣達ト會ヒ彼等ニ情勢ヲ説明シマシタ。ソレカラ御陪食ノ後前總理大臣達及私ガ陛下ノ御前テ會合シ陛下ハ辰々ニ各人ノ意見ヲ御聽取ニナリマシタ。他ノ國員ハソノ時ニハ出席セズ政府カラハ私文ガ田席シテ居リマシタ。モウ一人他ニ前總理大臣が出席シテ居リマシタ！慶田テハ。

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問、コノ點ニ關シノ合衆國ニ對シ最後通牒ヲ手交スルコトニ關シ東洋トソノ他ノ者達ノ間ニ意見

ノ結果アリマシタカ、

答、イ、エ、アリマセンテシタ。皆一致シテサマシタソレヲ攻撃前ニ手交スルコトニテス。

問、攻撃前伍ノ伍ノ時間ニ於イテソレガ手交サレルベキカニ窺イテ議論會議テ何等カノ決定ニ到達シマシタカ、

答、ソノコトハ前ニ説明致シマシタ。ソノ時間ニ關シテノ決定ハソノ議論會議ニ於イテ爲サレナカツタノテス。海軍部ト外務大臣ガ一清ニ會合シテ外交上及作戦上ノ各要求ニ應スルヤウナ時間ヲ決定スル旨テアリマシタ。

問、ソノ権限ノ委任ハ議論最終ノ議論會議ニ於テ決定セラレタノテスカ、

答、サウテス。

問、ソノ様ナ會合ガ一度成ハ數度右権限ノ委任ニ從ツテ關カレタコトヲ貴方ハ知ツテ居マスカ、

答、イヤ、知リマセン。

問、ソノ権限ヲ委任レタ者達ニ何ツテ時間ニ關シ何等カノ結果ニ達シタカ貴方ハ聞キマシタカ、

答、私ハ定メラレタ時間ヲ正確ニハ聞キマセンテシ

タ。 然シ閣總長及外務大臣ハ外史上及作戰上ノ
兩方ノ眞宗ニ處スル様之ヲ疾起スルトイコト
ガ矣メラレマシタ。 既に通牒方法ニ先立チ手
交セラレルトイコトハソノ通牒會議ニ於テ決
定セラレタノテスノコノ旨ノ實行ノ部分ハ證人
ニ眞返サレ、 證人ハソノ相達ナキコトヲ認メタ
リノ。

問、 實方ハコノ前試験中ニ日本ハ合衆國及英國ニ論
シ宣戰ヲ布告シタト述べマシタホ。 ソノ眞通ハ
何ニ證イテナラレマシタカ。

答、 ソレハ證書ニ證イテナラレマシタ。

問、 ソノ證書ハ眞宗御前方行ハレテカラ前十一、
二時開會ニ日本國民及世界ニ向ツア拂セラレタ
ノテス。 ソレヲ否認シマスカ。

答、 余テ否タノテス。 附通ヒアリマセン。

問、 證書ノ公示ハ何時開會デシタカ。

答、 ソレハ日本テ八日ノ午前十一時カ十一時半頃
セラレマシタ。

問、 ソシテ眞宗御前方行ハ日本國ニシテ午前三時テ
シタカ、

答、 サウテス、 ソノ頃テス。 時間ノ誤ヘヘツキリシ
マセンガソノ通りテアツタト認ヒマス。

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